Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PANAMA 02768 221702Z ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 SSO-00 PM-03 SP-02 L-01 H-01 INR-05 SAB-01 INRE-00 /038 W

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O 221650Z APR 78 FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6682

CONFIDENTIAL PANAMA 2768

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PEPR, PN

SUBJECT: TORRIJOS REMARKS

- 1. I PASSED WORD YESTERDAY MORNING TO GENERAL TORRIJOS THAT HIS RECENT REMARKS REGARDING AN ALLEGED PLAN TO ATTACK THE CANAL OR PUT IT OUT OF BUSINESS WERE UNHELPFUL IN THE EXTREME. I SAID THEY HAD CAUSED INDIGNATION AMONG OUR FRIENDS AND TREATY SUPPORTERS, OBVIOUSLY DELIGHTED THOSE WHO HAD OPPOSED THE TREATIES AND ATTACKED TORRIJOS, AND HAD EMBARRASSED OUR PRESIDENT. I GAVE IT AS MY PERSONAL OPINION THAT IT WAS A VERY SHABBY BACKDROP FOR ANY PROPOSED VISIT BY THE PRESIDENT TO PANAMA AND COULD VERY WELL AFFECT THE ADMINISTRATION'S DECISION ON THIS MATTER.
- 2. I REPEATED THIS MESSAGE IN EVEN MORE EMPHATIC LANGUAGE TO AMBASSADOR LEWIS AFTER HIS RETURN TO PANAMA LAST NIGHT. HE WILL BE CONVEYING THIS THOUGHT, AND REINFORCING IT WITH HIS OWN OBSERVATIONS, AT A MEETING WITH THE GENERAL THIS MORNING.
- 3. MEANTIME, I HAVE BEEN ASSURED BY A CLOSE CONFIDANT OF TORRIJOS CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT HE HAS NO INTENTION OF REPEATING THIS UNHELPFUL LINE. BUT ONLY TIME WILL TELL. $\,$ JORDEN

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, PGOV, PN, (TORRIJOS HERRERA, OMAR)

To: STATE Type: TE

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